

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A telecommunications device, comprising:
 - a receiver for receiving an incoming call; and
 - a processor in communication with the receiver, the processor having a call hold module, the call hold module for placing the call on hold prior to the call being answered by a user of the telecommunications device.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the device is selected from the group consisting of a wireless telephone and a wireline telephone.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein the receiver includes an RF transceiver unit.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein the processor includes a digital signal processor.
5. The device of claim 1, wherein the processor includes a microcontroller.
6. A method of placing an incoming call to a telecommunications device from a calling party on hold prior to being answered by a called party, the method comprising:
 - automatically answering the call;
 - playing a message to the calling party; and
 - connecting the called party to the calling party when the called party answers the call.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising determining whether the called party has enabled a hold function.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising determining whether the called party has pressed a button on the telecommunications device to enable a hold function.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising alerting the called party of the incoming call.

10. The method of claim 6, further comprising connecting the calling party to a voicemail system when the called party does not answer the call within a predetermined time period.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein playing a message to the calling party includes playing a message that is resident on a services node of a telecommunications network.

12. The method of claim 6, wherein playing a message to the calling party includes playing a pre-recorded message stored in a memory device resident on the telecommunications device.

13. The method of claim 6, further comprising connecting the call to a voicemail system when the called party presses a button on the telecommunications device.

14. A telecommunications system, comprising:
a services node; and

a telecommunications device in communication with the services node, wherein the services node determines whether calls placed to the telecommunications device should be placed on hold prior to the calls being answered.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the services node includes an enunciator.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the enunciator is for playing a message to a calling party when a call is placed on hold.

17. An apparatus, comprising:

means for automatically answering a call placed by a calling party to a called party;

means for playing a message to the calling party; and

means for connecting the called party to the calling party when the called party answers the call.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for determining whether the called party has enabled a hold function.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for determining whether the called party has pressed a button on the telecommunications device to enable a hold function.

20. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for alerting the called party of the incoming call.